

REMARKS

Claims 6, 7, 9, 10, and 12-26 are pending in the application. Claims 13 and 14 were previously withdrawn. Claims 1-5, 8, and 11 have been cancelled. Claims 21-26 have been added. Claims 6, 7, 9, 10, and 12 have been amended. Claims 15 and 21 are in independent form.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

1-2. Claims 1-4, 6-7, and 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,839,943 to Burkhardt et al. (“the ’943 reference”) in view of U.S. Patent 5,860,685 to Horney et al. (“the ’685 reference”) and U.S. Patent 6,203,366 to Müller et al. (“the ’366 reference”). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Applicant has cancelled claims 1-4 and 11. Claims 15-20 are allowed.

Claims 6, 7, 9, 10, and 12 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 15 and, as such, are construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which they refer, *see* 35 U.S.C. §112, fourth paragraph.

In light of the foregoing, the cited references do not provide any teaching, suggestion, or motivation for a containing portion having a through-hole for housing a sensor and for allowing the sensor to sense an object therethrough, the through-hole defining a rounded edge at a show surface of a fascia and a flat portion generally parallel to a rear side and disposed between the rear side and the show surface. As a result, Applicant contends that claims 6, 7, 9, 10, and 12, as amended, would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-4, 6-7, and 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the ’943 reference in view of the ’685 reference and the ’366 reference be withdrawn.

3. Claims 1-4, 6-7, and 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,318,774 to Karr et al. (“the ’774 reference”) in view of the ’943

reference, the '685 reference, optionally in view of the '366 reference. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Applicant has cancelled claims 1-4 and 11. Claims 15-20 are allowed.

Claims 6, 7, 9, 10, and 12 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 15 and, as such, are construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which they refer, *see* 35 U.S.C. §112, fourth paragraph.

In light of the foregoing, the cited references do not provide any teaching, suggestion, or motivation for a containing portion having a through-hole for housing a sensor and for allowing the sensor to sense an object therethrough, the through-hole defining a rounded edge at a show surface of a fascia and a flat portion generally parallel to a rear side and disposed between the rear side and the show surface. As a result, Applicant contends that claims 6, 7, 9, 10, and 12, as amended, would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-4, 6-7, and 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the '774 reference in view of the '943 reference, the '685 reference, optionally in view of the '366 reference be withdrawn.

New independent claim 21 includes all the limitations of allowed claim 15 with the difference being a component mounting and component have been inserted in place of the sensor bracket and sensor respectively. Claims 22-26 depend from new independent claim 21. As a result, Applicant contends that claims 21-26 are allowable.

It is respectfully submitted that this patent application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or the patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee associated with this Communication to Deposit Account No. 50-1759. A duplicate of this form is attached.

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Respectfully submitted,



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